



Friday 14th July 2023

Newsletter 406

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



@GillespieSchool

Dear Parents/Carers,

Key Stage 2 SATS results

After the disruption of the pandemic I am very happy to be reporting to parents for the first time since 2019 our end of Year 6 national assessment test results. The table compares the percentage of children who achieved the national expected standard with the average for the whole of England. I am very proud of the hard work of our Year 6 class and of all the staff who have worked with them, particularly over the recent challenging years when they have missed some schooling. This year, Class Teacher Hassan and TA's Mariam and Sally have supported the pupils very effectively and we have had additional support for maths from our Deputy Head Katrina and even me! We are very proud that our results are well above the national average and demonstrate the impact our school has supporting our children's learning and achievement.

	Gillespie Percentage	National average
Reading	90%	73%
Writing (teacher assessment)	83%	71%
Maths	93%	73%
Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling (GPS)	83%	72%
Science (teacher assessment)	93%	80%

Academic Year 2023/24 arrangements

We are very happy to share our arrangements for teachers and classes next year. We will organise a meet the teacher meeting for the second week back of school (dates shared next week).

Classes for September 2023

Nursery	Ellen Goldsmith
Reception	Katy Parker (Mon-Wed), Lyn Jones (Thu-Fri)
Year 1	Steph Welburn
Year 2	Shelley Wragg
Year 3	Chloe Pritchard
Year 4	Katrina Moses (Mon-Thu), Tash Corbisieri (Fri)
Year 5	Florie Smith
Year 6	Hassan Khan

Parents and carers will note that both Deputy Head Katrina and Assistant Head Lyn have a class teaching role as part of their responsibilities. I am most grateful to Katrina for taking on board a full class teaching role next year! This is because like a huge percentage of schools, in Islington and across the country, in real terms we are operating our school on a much reduced budget compared to most of the years I have been Headteacher at Gillespie school since 2006. I can assure parents that we will strain every sinew to continue to offer the best education that we can for all of our children which includes achieving fantastic outcomes by the end of their time with us. We appreciate all of the support we get from our many partners including our wonderful PTA FoG and Governors which helps us to increase the capacity at Gillespie school to offer a vibrant and rich educational experience for all of our children.

Sports Day
Tuesday 18th July 2023

Sport's day is fast approaching!

9:45am – Nur, Rec, Y1 & Y2

Please can Nursery & Reception parents who are coming along to sports day help accompany children to the park and back; we will be leaving shortly after drop off.

12pm – Year 6

Year 6 children will be running the day along with Ellen so take part in their activities between 12 and 1pm. Children will require a packed lunch as they will remain at the park all day.

1:15pm – Y3, Y4 & Y5

Parents/carers can join us at the park from 1:15pm for KS2's activities.

This year there will be team colours – your child's class teacher will indicate which colour your child is in (red, yellow, blue). If possible please can your child wear a t-shirt/ item of clothing in this colour.

Please ensure children are well dressed for the weather and have a hat, sun-cream applied and a full water bottle!



JOIN US AT CLISSOLD PARK FOR

GILLESPIE'S SPORTS DAY

TUESDAY 18TH JULY
AM - NUR, REC, YEARS 1 & 2
PM - YEARS 3, 4, 5 & 6

Attendance Matters

Class	Attendance WB 10/07/23
Nursery	95.35%
Reception	95%
Year 1	97.67%
Year 2	98.33%
Year 3	99.33%
Year 4	97.33%
Year 5	93.33%
Year 6	99%
Whole school	97.09%

Attendance Cup
Winner
Week Beginning
10/07/2023

Year 3



Ongoing reminders - Diary Dates

Date	Event
WB 17 th July	No after school clubs this week End of year reports home
Tuesday 18 th July	Sports day at Clissold Park EYFS & KS1 AM, KS2 PM
Wednesday 19 th July	10am Year 6 Leavers show
Thursday 20th July	Last day of term for pupils – school finishes 2pm
Friday 21 st July	INSET Day (school closed for pupils)
Autumn term 2023	
Monday 4 th September	INSET Day (school closed for pupils)
Tuesday 5 th September	INSET Day (school closed for pupils)
Wednesday 6 th September	First day of Autumn term for pupils
Saturday 16 th September	Welcome/back to school family party

School books coming home!

Next week, class teachers will be sending home children's work books from the year so please send in a strong bag so they can carry these. We really hope you enjoy going through the books and looking at all the wonderful work children have produced throughout the year.

Year 2 Learning

We designed, made and evaluated our own fruit smoothies for a healthy snack for people at the Summer Fair. We decided two different combinations of ingredients were the best and named these 'Purple Delight' and 'Super Star Smoothie'. We then worked out the amount of each ingredient we needed to buy, how much this would cost and what price we would need to sell them for. They were a big success with our school community!



Year 1 Learning

This half term, year 1 have been doing dance as their P.E lesson. The children have worked really hard to choreograph, learn and perform it. The dance stimulus was the *life cycle of a dandelion* which is linked to their science topic of plants for this half term.

Yesterday we went to AMSI secondary school to perform in the Islington 11 by 11 dance festival. 3 other primary schools took part and performed their dances too. We also got to see the GCSE students from AMSI perform their exam dance pieces which we were all amazed by.

We are all so incredibly proud of what the children have achieved in this dance, they were brilliant! So brilliant in fact that we won the prize of THE MOST CREATIVE DANCE, the judges loved that the dance told a story so well.



Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen, Headteacher

Lab 13 End of Year News

Recently, some Nursery pupils visited Lab_13 to undertake some activities exploring water and ice. They used their senses; talked about liquids and solids and investigated and discussed how to change water into ice. They measured out 50 millilitres of water and put it in the freezer. The next day, they got the beakers out of the freezer and by observing over time, they were able to see the ice change state from a solid back to a liquid (water): a reversible change. Once the ice melted, they tipped the water back into the beakers to see that there will still be the same amount.

A few weeks ago, Year 5 visited the lab to investigate if parachutes with sides of different lengths fall at different speeds. Each parachute carried an animal with the same mass. They concluded that as the length of the side of the parachute decreased, the time taken for the parachute to fall decreased because the smaller the surface area of the parachute, the less air resistance there is. We discussed what air resistance is at the beginning of the lesson: a force that acts upon an object as it moves along or through the air.

On Tuesday, some Year 6 pupils, Mariam and I attended Science on the Stage at the Royal Institution. Their presenters wowed us with a show about fire. Pupils then undertook a trail around the building. This was followed by a presentation by scientists from the National Physics Laboratory which included some neat demonstrations involving liquid nitrogen.

I am so very proud of our Eco-Committee who learnt on Wednesday that they have achieved an Eco-Schools Green Flag with Distinction for our school. Congratulations

Molly, Ralph, Alexandra, Asli, Emelia, Johanna, Emilia, Chloe, Eli, Scarlett, Raya, Isra, Poppy, Margaux, Maia, Emir, Annam and Juliette.

Thank you for all for demonstrating that you care so passionately about our planet through your actions. The Eco-Committee would like to say a huge thank you to Friends of Gillespie for the recycling bins they financed for our two playgrounds. They have already been put to great use at the Summer Fair. Eco-Committee members took their suggestions for reducing the amount of single-use plastic used at Gillespie Primary School to Mark. These were accompanied by posters highlighting how important this issue is. Mark will share these with the Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body and will report back to the committee.



Thank you to our brilliant Science Committee members for their commitment and enthusiasm this year. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with them. It has been a delight to watch them develop their communication and leadership skills as they have worked together to deliver science enrichment to the Gillespie community and to other pupils in Islington. Well done Ayub, Cleo, Jacob, Audrey, Ruby, Katja, Emma, Alexander, Rowan, Kie, Aaliyah, Lois, Nicolas and Zerina. Thank you also to Carwyn, Laila, Bella and Betty-Rose who served as committee members for part of the year.

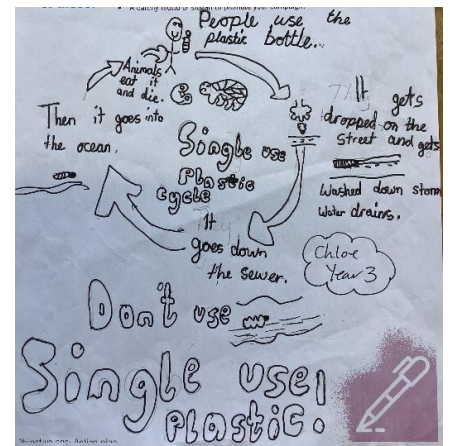
I am now inviting pupils who would like to be a member of next year's Eco-Committee or Science Committee to complete an application form which they can collect from me in Lab_13. I will be available on Tuesday and Wednesday next week during break times to assist any interested pupils with their applications. Alternatively, pupils can complete an application form on their return to school in September.

Have a happy and safe break everyone.
Meg, Lab_13

GILLESPIE: PLASTIC: CAMPAIGN

1. We would like to implement a policy banning the purchase of single use plastic in our canteen.
2. We would like a policy where the kitchen canteen plates bowls and cups are used at all future events.
3. We would like a policy banning the use of disposable cups, plates, bowls and cutlery.
4. We would like to ban bottled water at our school.

Eli Year 4



HELP OTHERS UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WANT TO TACKLE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC

Write or draw one of these:

- The impact of a single-use plastic item
- Why you use it (single-use plastic is a disposable item)
- What changes you or your school can make to use less single-use plastic
- Campaigns you can use to encourage others to change their single-use plastic behaviour
- A campaign video or poster to encourage you to do so

Small single-use plastic items
Cling wrap
Cling wrap
But it's bad for the environment
You will need beeswax wraps
Cloth/material
Trainer Board

HELP OTHERS UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WANT TO TACKLE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC

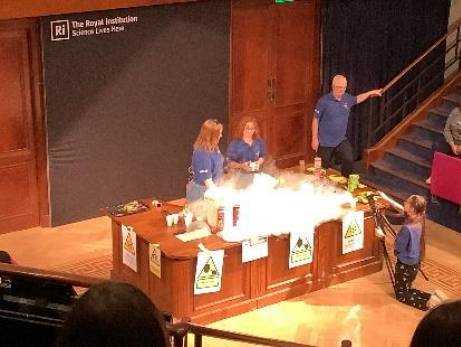
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Swimming goggles
Swimming goggles
SINGLE USE PLASTIC
IS SO BAD, IT WILL TURN YOUR FACE TO A PRISON
All the single-use plastic
Less than
of all plastic in the UK is single-use plastic

Save the planet.

Can you save the planet?
Don't use plastic cups
Alexandra Year 1





FoG News

FoG is recruiting! Would you like to support Gillespie to provide the best possible educational experience for pupils and families? Do you have ideas about fundraising to enrich our children's education or events to get the Gillespie community together? Then FoG would love to hear from you!

Sarah's term as co-chair of FoG is ending and we're looking for someone to join Sean as co-chair next school year. This involves coordinating a fun and friendly team to organise fundraising events and working with Mark and teachers to decide what money raised is spent on. The idea is to do a year as the new co-chair and then a second as an old hand so that we keep the FoG team fresh and give more people the opportunity to get involved in shaping FoG's work. If you're interested in hearing more, please get in touch with Sean (07986792367).

Save the date! Sat 16 Sept,
welcome/back to school family party.
Bring a dish to share.
Can you help on the day? Text

Huge thanks to everyone involved in the summer fair last weekend!

So many of you were involved in organising and running it and we couldn't have done it without you. Thanks too to everyone who came and had a great time in spite of the rain. The weather may have tried to spoil our fun, but it was a brilliant afternoon!



Remember, you
can support FoG
through a one-off
or regular donation

All money raised by FoG goes towards extra-curricular activities for Gillespie children. [Read more about this in newsletter no.378.](#) There is no obligation to give and it can be as much or as little as you can afford. **To donate, [click here](#) or scan the QR code on the noticeboard next to the playground gates.**

The Enrichment Hub

The Virtual school has partnered with The Enrichment Hub to run an exciting Summer Camp for 2 weeks over the summer holiday. The target audience are children with a social worker or CLA.

Click the link to register <https://book.timetospare.com/e/Kfe3TpXa9gJG9oxJ7eI7>

The Enrichment Hub is a fun holiday camp, jam packed with fun activities. At The Enrichment Hub we offer a large range of exciting activities including sports, arts and crafts, music, dance, drama and ICT. Children and young people will be supported to gain confidence, develop key skills, make friends and foster a love for learning whilst having fun!

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE FREE!!

Children and young people will engage with Sports activities like **football, basketball, tennis and rounders**. Our **Arts and crafts** activities will allow students to express their creativity in **painting, drawing and sculpting**. Students who attend will have the opportunity to take part in exciting an creative **Music and Drama workshops**.

FREE TRIPS

Children and young people will have the opportunity to embark on an amazing trip to experience artistic culture at the **Saatchi gallery** and a fun trip to an **arcade** for games and bowling.

FREE LUNCH

All pupils who attend and are eligible for free school meals will receive a delicious, health meal and snacks.

The Enrichment Hub is a fun exciting holiday camp which provides provision which promotes and develops the social, emotional, and mental health of children and young adults. Our aim is to nurture, support, inspire and invigorate the future leaders and partakers of tomorrows world by investing in them now.

Register today!! [The Enrichment Hub Summer Camp \(7-15 years\)- City of London Academy Highbury Grove - The Enrichment Hub \(timetospare.com\)](#)

Ready Set Stage (RSS) After School Clubs – Autumn term 2023

www.readysetstage.co.uk



READY SET STAGE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Gymnastics	Arts & Craft	Singing	Performing Arts	Games
	Basketball	Football (Reception - Year 2)	Football (Years 3-6)	

Autumn term registration to be made online at www.readysetstage.co.uk

1. WC 18/09/2023 for **Y1-6 only** x5 weeks
2. WC 23/10 Half term
3. WC 30/10/23 clubs recommence – Reception children able to join – x7 weeks
4. WC 11/12/23 last week of clubs

Reception Class pupils

Reception class families can register for clubs now to begin after the October half term.

To register please use the following codes*. This will deduct £40 (the x5 weekly fee for September/October).

Code: RECEPGYM for GYMNASTICS CLUB

Code: RECEPARTS for ARTS AND CRAFTS CLUB

Code: RECEPBASK for BASKETBALL CLUB

Code: RECEPFOOT for FOOTBALL CLUB

Code: RECEPSING for SINGING CLUB

Code: RECEPPERF for PERFORMING ARTS CLUB

Code: RECEPGAMES for GAMES CLUB

Free School Meal eligible pupils

Children eligible for Free School Meals are entitled to **one free club per term**. Please sign up using the RSS website and enter the following code* FSMCLUBS which will deduct any payment at the end. You can only use this code once per eligible pupil. If you are unsure if your child is eligible for Free School Meals please contact the school office.

Code: FSMCLUBS for all clubs

*Code eligibility will be checked with the office. Families who incorrectly use a code risk their child being removed from the club until full fee payment is made.